

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IOE-00 L-03 OIC-02 CIAE-00

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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-08 ARA-06 NEA-10 ABF-01 OMB-01

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P R 301157Z SEP 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2647

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 7649

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG UN

SUBJ: GENEVA GROUP (GENERAL) MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 23, 1976

REF: (A) STATE 235273; (B) GENEVA 7436; (C) GENEVA 7461;

(D) GENEVA 7562

1. SUMMARY: IN THE SEPTEMBER 23 GG (GENERAL) MEETING, UNANIMITY WAS REACHED ON HAVING A C.L. MEETING FOR ONE TO TWO DAYS BEGINNING OCTOBER 6. IT WAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE UK AND US MISSIONS IN NEW YORK SHOULD SERVE IN A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COORDINATING ROLE FOR THE COURSE OF THE MEETING. THE

CO-CHAIRMEN'S DRAFT AGENDA AND WORKING PAPER DISTRIBUTED AND DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING WERE GENERALLY CONSIDERED USEFUL TO CAPITALS, PROVIDED REPRESENTATIVES UNDERSTOOD THAT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL WAS STILL THE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION FOR THE NEW YORK MEETING. THE NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN AND AUSTRALIA CONTINUE TO HAVE RESERVATIONS ON THE FRENCH PROPOSAL IN ITS PRESENT FORM; NAMELY, THE SETTING OF "ARBITRARY BUDGETARY CEILINGS" (THE NETHERLANDS). END SUMMARY.

2. THE GENEVA GROUP (GENERAL) MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 23 WAS CHAIRED BY UK AMBASSADOR BOTTOMLEY. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO FOLLOW UP ON THE GG (GENERAL) MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 15 AND TO DECIDE ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A GG CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING IN NEW YORK ON OR ABOUT 6 OCTOBER. A DRAFT AGENDA AND WORKING PAPER PREPARED BY THE CO-CHAIRMEN WERE DISTRIBUTED FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE USE BY CAPITALS AT THE CL OCTOBER MEETING (SEE REFTELS B, C, D). HOWEVER, THE CO-CHAIRMEN EMPHASIZED THAT NEITHER THE DRAFT AGENDA NOR WORKING PAPER WAS BINDING UPON CAPITALS, SEE REFTEL B. IT WAS ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT IN NO WAY WAS THE DRAFT WORKING PAPER, TO WHICH THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR (NOTER-DAEME) HAD ORIGINALLY CONTRIBUTED, TO REPLACE THE FRENCH PROPOSAL. IN FACT, IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT UK AMBASSADOR BOTTOMLEY REMINDED MEMBERS THAT (THE FRENCH PROPOSAL REMAINS WITH US AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION".

3. THE FRG REPRESENTATIVE OPENED THE DISCUSSION, AFFIRMING THAT HE CAN SUPPORT THE IDEA OF A NEW YORK MEETING IN OCTOBER, IF ITS PURPOSE IS TO LOOK FOR PRACTICAL METHODS OF CONTROLLING THE GROWTH OF UN BUDGETS. HE ADDED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO CONSIDER BUDGET CEILINGS FOR INDIVIDUAL UN AGENCIES.

4. THE US CO-CHAIRMAN INTERVENED, PICKING UP ON THE FRG STATEMENT BY ANNOUNCING THAT THE US IS PREPARED TO GO TO NEW YORK IN OCTOBER AND TO DISCUSS THE FRENCH PROPOSAL, OR ANY OTHER PROPOSAL ALONG SIMILAR LINES, PROVIDED THERE IS UNANIMITY OR, AT LEAST, A WIDE MEASURE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF AGREEMENT BY GG MEMBERS, ON THE FOLLOWING TWO POINTS:

1) A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO CONTROLLING BUDGET INCREASES IN THE UN SYSTEM, 2) AN EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS BY GG MEMBERS ON HOW TO PROCEED. THE US CO-CHAIRMAN THEN STATED THAT WITHOUT THESE TWO CONDITIONS THE US WOULD FIND IT PREMATURE TO CONVENE A CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING IN NEW YORK AS EARLY AS OCTOBER 6 (SEE REFTEL A).

GG MEMBERS RESPONDED TO THE US POSITION AS FOLLOWS:

5. JAPAN AGREED TO THE OCTOBER 6 MEETING "IF THAT IS THE DESIRE OF THE GROUP", EMPHASIZING THAT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL WAS THE PAPER TO BE DISCUSSED IN NEW YORK AND SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF CONTINUED STUDY. REGARDING THE CO-CHAIRMEN'S DRAFT AGENDA AND WORKING PAPER, MR. SETO OBSERVED THAT THERE MAY BE DIFFERENT VIEWS BUT, BASICALLY, THEY AGREE WITH THE OUTLINED AGENDA AND THE PREMISES OF THE WORKING PAPER.

6. THE AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE SUPPORTED THE OCTOBER 6 MEETING, NOTING THE AUSTRALIAN POSITION THAT THERE SHOULD BE A JOINT APPROACH TO THE FIFTH COMMITTEE.

7. THE UK REPRESENTATIVE (ALEXANDER) ALSO EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO HAVE THE OCTOBER MEETING BUT RAISED THE QUESTION WHETHER ONLY THE BUDGET OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OR OF THE ENTIRE UN SYSTEM SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEW YORK MEETING.

8. THE SWEDISH OBSERVER REPORTED THAT SWEDEN WAS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE BUT SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF THE FRENCH WOULD PREPARE ADDITIONAL MATERIALS AND TABLES THAT WOULD COMPARE BUDGET INCREASES AMONG THE VARIOUS AGENCIES ON A PROGRAM GROWTH BASIS IN ORDER TO ILLUSTRATE REAL BUDGET INCREASES RATHER THAN PAPER ONES BASED ONLY ON INFLATION AND EXCHANGE RATE PROBLEMS. REGARDING THE DRAFT AGENDA AND WORKING PAPER, HE ADDED THAT THEY WERE SATISFACTORY AS A GENERAL BASIS FOR REVIEW AND POSSIBLE DISCUSSION BY THE CL GROUP.

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9. THE CANADIANS ALSO SUPPORTED THE NEW YORK MEETING AND THE CO-CHAIRMAN'S PAPERS, PROVIDED ALL OTHERS AGREED. THEY SUGGESTED ONE DAY MIGHT BE ENOUGH FOR THE MEETING.

10. THE FRENCH AND SWISS AGREED ON HAVING THE NEW YORK MEETING AND ON THE DRAFT AGENDA AND WORKING PAPER AS A USEFUL REVIEW OF THE PROBLEM IN GENERAL.

11. THE NETHERLANDS REPRESENTATIVE AGAIN EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS (SEE GENEVA 7319), STATING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT, THOUGH READY TO LOOK AT ALL POSSIBILITIES FOR A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESPONSIBLE INTERNATIONAL BUDGET POLICY, IS ALREADY ON RECORD TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL IS NOT ONE THEY WOULD WANT TO SEE IMPLEMENTED. HE ALSO WAS THE SINGLE GG MEMBER TO EXPRESS DOUBT THAT AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED ON ANY ONE LINE OF ACTION BY 6-7 OCTOBER, BUT, NEVERTHELESS THINKS SUCH A MEETING IN NEW YORK WOULD BE USEFUL. HE MENTIONED THAT IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE NETHERLANDS DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (GORKOM) TO ATTEND THE OCTOBER 6-7 MEETING BUT THAT AN APPROPRIATE HIGH OFFICIAL WILL BE SENT.

12. THE ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVE RAISED SEVERAL POINTS BASED ON INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN THE ITALIAN MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TREASURY, BUT ENDED ON THE NOTE THAT ITALY WAS WILLING TO EXPLORE ANY POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

13. THE UK AMBASSADOR THEN INTERVENED TO NOTE THAT THUS

FAR EVERYONE HAD EXPRESSED READINESS FOR AN EARLY OCTOBER MEETING. HE SUGGESTED THREE ITEMS TO BE RESOLVED BEFORE THE GG (GENERAL) MEETING ENDED:

(1) TO RECOMMEND TO CAPITALS THAT THE NEW YORK MEETING BE HOLD.

(2) TO ESTABLISH THE DATE AND VENUE OF THE MEETING.

(3) TO DISCUSS THE DRAFT AGENDA AND WORKING PAPER BUT TO LIMIT THE DISCUSSION AND FORWARD THE PAPERS TO CAPITALS.

14. THERE WAS UNANIMITY ON ITEM 1. ON ITEM 2, CONSENSUS WAS REACHED ON OCTOBER 6 FOR THE OPENING OF THE MEETING, WITH CAPITALS TO DECIDE ON THE NECESSITY OF A SECOND DAY OR SECOND HALF DAY. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT THE CO-CHAIRMAN WOULD REQUEST THEIR RESPECTIVE NEW YORK MISSIONS TO ACT AS COORDINATORS FOR THE MEETING.

15. REGARDING ITEM 3, MEMBERS HEADED AMBASSADOR BOTTOMLEY'S SUGGESTION AND THERE WAS LIMITED DISCUSSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON THE PROPOSED AGENDA AND WORKING PAPER. FRANCE SUGGESTED A PAPER BE PREPARED BY GENEVA ON ITEM 3 (A) OF THE CO-CHAIRMAN'S DRAFT AGENDA (SEE GENEVA 7461). THE UK (ALEXANDER) RESPONDED THAT THERE WAS NO TIME FOR SUCH A PAPER AND THAT CAPITALS WERE UNDOUBTEDLY WELL INFORMED ON THIS ITEM (ATTITUDE TOWARD 60/40 RESOLUTIONS, E.G., THE RECENT RESOLUTION IN THE WHO AND THE SIMILAR SRI LANKAN DECLARATION IN THE ILO). AFTER A CRITICISM BY FRANCE OF PARA 5 OF THE CO-CHAIRMAN'S DRAFT WORKING PAPER IT WAS AGREED TO SHORTEN THIS PARAGRAPH TO THE VERSION THAT APPEARS IN GENEVA 7462.

16. THE NETHERLANDS AGAIN NOTED THAT THE AGENDA PAPER WAS A USEFUL OUTLINE FOR THE NEW YORK MEETING. SWITZERLAND RAISED THE OLD QUESTION OF A GENEVA GROUP NEW YORK, WHICH WAS FENDED OFF BY AMBASSADOR BOTTOMLEY'S SUGGESTION THAT PERHAPS THIS QUESTION AND THE ANSWER TO IT WILL FLOW OUT OF THE NEW YORK MEETING.CATTO

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